



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Indiana Crop & Weather Report

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 18

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Farmers had an excellent week for field activities as soils continued to dry out aided by sunny, windy days. Corn planting advanced at a record early pace for this time of the season, according to the Indiana Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Corn planting is about one day ahead of the previous records set in 2004 and 2005 when approximately 15 percent of the acreage had been planted. A tremendous amount of tillage work and anhydrous ammonia applications were done during the week. Strong winds made it difficult to spray herbicides. Some central and northern areas experienced frost over the weekend causing concern for the fruit crops.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 6.0 **days suitable for field work**. Seventeen percent of the intended **corn** acreage has been **planted** compared with 0 percent last year and 4 percent for the 5-year average. A few scattered fields of **soybeans** have also been **planted** at this time.

Thirty-four percent of the **winter wheat** acreage is **jointed** compared with 33 percent for the 5-year average. **Winter wheat condition** is rated 68 percent good to excellent compared with 76 percent last year at this time.

Major activities during the week included: spraying herbicides, applying anhydrous ammonia, hauling and spreading manure, repairing and installing drainage tile and taking care of livestock.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Livestock are reported to be in mostly good condition. Pastures continue to improve and farmers have been able to decrease or stop feeding hay. Hay supplies are rated 1 percent very short, 7 percent short, 85 percent adequate and 7 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg.
Percent				
Corn Planted	17	1	0	4
Winter Wheat Jointed	34	8	23	33

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Pasture	1	4	24	54	17
Winter Wheat	0	3	29	55	13

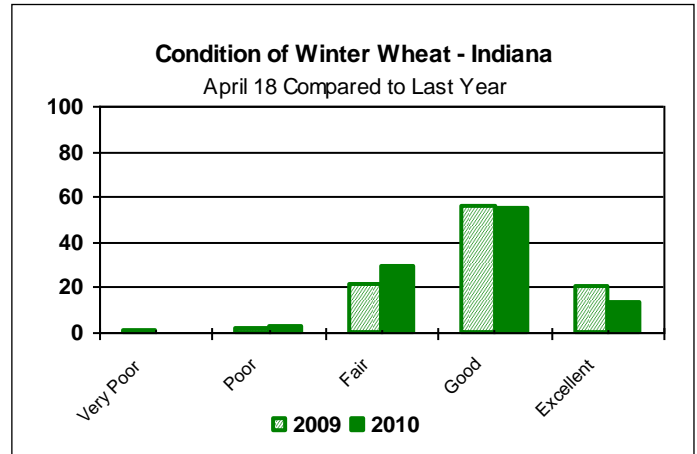
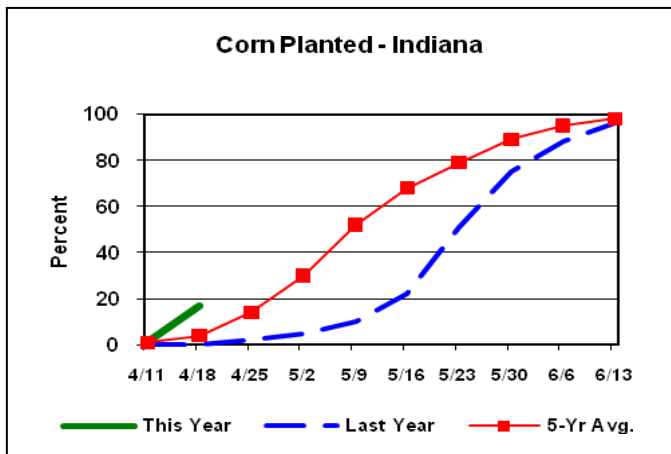
SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

Soil Moisture	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
Topsoil			
Very Short	1	0	0
Short	9	2	0
Adequate	82	66	37
Surplus	8	32	63
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	6	3	2
Adequate	85	72	57
Surplus	9	25	41
Days Suitable	6.0	3.3	1.0

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Crop Progress



Other Agricultural Comments And News

Last Year's Moldy Corn Problems Could Carry Into 2010 Growing Season

Written Thursday, April 08, 2010

With corn still in the bins and spring bringing warmer temperatures, growers may not be out of the woods just yet when it comes to moldy grain and mycotoxin problems.

Wet conditions in the fall followed by a late corn harvest resulted in the development of ear rots and the presence of vomitoxin – a mycotoxin that makes grain undesirable for livestock feed. The problem has been so severe and widespread in some areas across the Midwest that plant pathologists and agronomists fear the problem might persist into the 2010 growing season.

"If conditions in the bins were kept cool and dry, vomitoxin levels would likely not increase from the levels seen in the fall. But if conditions were not kept cool and dry, it's likely that growers will see an increase in moldy grain and vomitoxin levels this spring relative to what they saw in the fall," said Pierce Paul, an Ohio State University Extension plant pathologist. "Even if they kept the grain cool and dry, with normal environmental conditions this time of year being warm naturally, it may be impossible for growers to keep that grain cool enough, and the problem might just very well flare up again in infected bins."

Anticipating any potential problems this spring, Paul is re-emphasizing the importance of testing grain to see if vomitoxin is present and at what levels before feeding it to livestock.

"If you choose to feed the moldy grain to livestock, keep it away from pigs because they are highly sensitive to the

vomitoxin," said Paul, who also holds an appointment with the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center. "Other livestock, such as sheep and goats, are more tolerant, but again it depends on how high levels are as to whether you should feed the grain to those livestock or not."

Paul said that growers should be taking steps both in the grain bins and in the fields to keep inoculum levels low and prevent any ear mold flare-ups that may occur in this year's corn crop.

"To get rid of moldy grain, some growers may be tempted to spread it out in the field. You are not going to have a problem from a vomitoxin standpoint by doing that, but if there is active fungi on the kernels spread in the fields, you can run the risk of spreading the inoculum to this year's crop," said Paul. "The fungus can cause stalk rot and ear rot in corn and head scab in wheat. Spreading moldy grain will just increase your chances of spreading spores and causing these additional disease problems."

In addition to keeping the fields clean, grain bins need to be cleaned as well.

"You want to get rid of as much of the mold as possible, so once the grain bins are empty, washing and scrapping them clean will help get rid of any fungal residue," said Paul. "Also get rid of the fine particles and impurities. They can be more contaminated than the grain itself."

(Continued on Back Page)

Weather Information Table

Week Ending Sunday April 18, 2010

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air							April 1, 2010 thru				
								April 18, 2010				
	Temperature			Precip.		4 in	Soil	Precipitation		GDD Base 50°F		
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days		Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Chalmers_5W	84	32	58	+7	0.02	1		1.69	-0.41	6	149	+100
Francesville	82	30	57	+8	0.04	1		1.39	-0.81	6	151	+119
Valparaiso_AP_I	83	31	57	+9	0.13	1		2.00	-0.35	6	162	+131
Wanatah	84	28	56	+9	0.17	1	57	1.71	-0.56	6	134	+112
Winamac	83	33	58	+9	0.06	1		1.33	-0.87	6	157	+125
North Central (2)												
Plymouth	83	33	57	+7	0.07	1		1.31	-0.98	5	144	+108
South_Bend	83	32	56	+8	0.04	1		1.19	-1.14	6	157	+132
Young_America	82	30	57	+8	0.03	1		1.07	-0.96	3	164	+133
Northeast (3)												
Fort_Wayne	84	32	57	+9	0.06	1		1.51	-0.50	4	183	+155
Kendallville	81	33	55	+7	0.05	1		0.73	-1.16	5	127	+99
West Central (4)												
Greencastle	82	32	59	+7	0.00	0		1.14	-1.02	4	175	+119
Perrysville	86	31	62	+11	0.01	1	64	1.00	-1.31	6	198	+154
Spencer_Ag	84	32	60	+10	0.00	0		1.73	-0.62	4	187	+139
Terre_Haute_AFB	83	33	62	+10	0.03	1		2.97	+0.70	5	217	+159
W_Lafayette_6NW	86	29	60	+11	0.01	1	65	0.63	-1.52	4	184	+151
Central (5)												
Eagle_Creek_AP	82	37	62	+11	0.00	0		1.63	-0.56	5	225	+174
Greenfield	85	35	60	+10	0.00	0		1.69	-0.65	4	191	+153
Indianapolis_AP	83	37	63	+11	0.00	0		1.82	-0.37	4	239	+188
Indianapolis_SE	82	33	59	+8	0.01	1		1.36	-0.79	5	189	+143
Tipton_Ag	84	34	58	+10	0.02	1	62	0.83	-1.48	5	166	+142
East Central (6)												
Farmland	83	29	58	+10	0.06	2	59	1.08	-1.05	6	174	+152
New_Castle	83	32	58	+10	0.01	1		1.88	-0.51	5	169	+145
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	86	36	64	+8	0.12	1		1.34	-1.05	4	246	+146
Freelandville	84	40	64	+11	0.24	1		1.21	-1.02	3	226	+158
Shoals_8S	85	29	60	+7	0.08	1		1.48	-0.93	3	187	+120
Stendal	87	37	67	+13	0.00	0		1.45	-1.17	4	276	+195
Vincennes_5NE	87	37	65	+12	0.07	1	69	1.15	-1.08	5	242	+174
South Central (8)												
Leavenworth	85	35	63	+10	0.23	1		1.99	-0.79	4	225	+155
Oolitic	84	33	61	+9	0.06	1	62	2.05	-0.32	4	188	+133
Tell_City	85	36	64	+10	0.10	1		2.10	-0.79	3	248	+160
Southeast (9)												
Brookville	85	33	60	+11	0.16	1		1.85	-0.38	3	181	+144
Greensburg	86	33	63	+11	0.08	1		1.64	-0.72	4	229	+181
Seymour	83	34	60	+8	0.04	1		1.58	-0.74	4	185	+129

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DFN = Departure From Normal.
GDD = Growing Degree Days.
Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

For more weather information, visit www.awis.com
or call 1-888-798-9955.

Last Year's Moldy Corn Problems Could Carry Into 2010 Growing Season (Continued)

Paul also emphasizes that mycotoxin and mold go hand-in-hand.

"Mycotoxin itself will not stay in the walls of the bins if there is no mold. Mycotoxin by itself isn't a problem in the bins. It has to move with the fungus," said Paul. "Get rid of the fungus and mold and you'll be rid of the mycotoxin in the bin."

When it comes to planting crops this year in fields identified with ear mold problems, growers are encouraged to exercise caution.

"This is the same disease that causes head scab. This is the same disease that we've now shown, when inoculum is really high, can affect soybean seedlings," said Anne Dorrance, an OSU Extension plant pathologist. "We have high inoculum density right now and we have to get it knocked down or this problem is going to continue to expand."

Dorrance recommends that growers either apply a seed treatment or perform some management practices to reduce the inoculum levels, such as chopping up corn residue or covering it over with soil.

"Getting those levels down is really important for the long-term health of soybean seedlings and this year's corn crop and wheat crop. We don't need a head scab epidemic," said Dorrance, who also holds an appointment with the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center.

Growers aren't encouraged to plant corn after corn in no-till situations because of the increased disease problems associated with the practice, said Paul.

"If they choose to do, they should be prepared to plant resistant varieties for the most important foliar diseases like gray leaf spot and northern corn leaf blight and use a fungicide application management program," said Paul. "There isn't much you can do with fungicides for ear mold, however. If a grower can identify a resistant variety, then plant it."

A new fact sheet, "Gibberella Ear Rot and Mycotoxins in Corn: Sampling, Testing and Storage" is now available at <http://ohioline.osu.edu/ac-fact/pdf/0052.pdf>. The publication provides up-to-date information on the development of Gibberella ear rot; sampling and testing for mycotoxins, with an emphasis on vomitoxin; and storage and handling of moldy grain.

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